

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8644

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FAO, AORG
SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES' VISIT TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

REF: ROME 8479

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES MET WITH EXECDIR VOGEL OF THE WORLD
FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) ON MAY 8.

2. VOGEL REVIEWED RECENT PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING DOL. 750 MILLION
GOAL FOR 1977/78. RECENT PLEDGES HAVE RAISED TOTAL FROM DOL. 627
MILLION TO DOL. 701 MIL. THANKS PRIMARILY TO PLEDGES OF DOL. 13
MILLION FROM NORWAY, DOL. 27 MILLION FROM EC, AND 225,000 TONS OF
WHEAT VALUED AT DOL. 34 MILLION FROM CANADA.

2. TARGET COUNTRIES FOR NEW PLEDGES IN 1977/78 ARE KUWAIT, QATAR,
AND EMIRATES, BUT FRANK APPRAISAL BY USTUN, DEPUTY EXEC. DIRECTOR,
DID NOT EXPECT THEY WOULD MAKE PLEDGES IN '77/78 PERIOD. THUS
VOGEL ADMITTED IT WAS DOUBTFUL WFP WOULD REACH DOL. 750 MILLION
TARGET FOR 1977/78. HE THEN ASKED MAYNES IF U.S. RESTRICTION OF
OUR PLEDGE TO 25 PERCENT OF PLEDGES COULD NOT BE WAIVED SINCE
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WFP CLOSE TO TARGET AND USG HAD NOT MADE SIMILAR RESTRICTION
IN PLEDGE FOR 1979/80. MAYNES RESPONDED IT WAS IMPROBABLE
THAT USG WOULD WAIVE RESTRICTION.

3. VOGEL WAS OPTIMISTIC WFP WOULD REACH DOL. 950 MILLION
TARGET FOR 1979/80. PLEDGES ALREADY TOTALED DOL. 686 MILLION
AND THERE WERE THREE YEARS TO GO. HE WAS PLEASED WITH RECENT

SAUDI ARABIAN OFFER OF DOL. 55 MILLION CASH, UP 10 PERCENT,
BUT NOTED IT IS HARD TO GET ARAB MONEY IF IT LOOKS LIKE
THEIR MONEY IS BEING SPENT TO SHIP EXISTING DONORS' COMMODITIES.

4. MAYNES THEN ASKED ABOUT WFP IN VIETNAM. VOGEL DESCRIBED
PROJECTS BRIEFLY. THEY AMOUNT TO DOL. 89 MILLION WHICH MAKES
VIETNAM ONE OF WFP'S BIGGEST COUNTRY RECIPIENTS. FOR MORE
EXACT DESCRIPTION SEE ROME 8479. MAYNES NOTED THAT USG
WAS PROHIBITED FROM DIRECT AID TO VIETNAM AND APPRECIATED
NO U.S. COMMODITIES BEING SENT BY WFP. HE MADE
CLEAR THAT AID TO VIETNAM WAS A VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR USG
AND HOPED THAT VIETNAM WOULD NOT BECOME LARGEST WFP RECIPIENT
AND FURTHER THAT WFP KEEP US INFORMED OF PROJECTS AT EARLY
STAGE. MAYNES ALSO REVIEWED U.S. POLICY ON AID TO VIETNAM,
CONGRESSIONAL COUNTRY AND COMMODITY PROHIBITIONS, AND PRESI-
DENTIAL RESPONSE. HE AGAIN EMPHASIZED SENSITIVENESS OF ISSUE
AND OUR DESIRE NOT TO INCLUDE INDIRECT AID UNDER PROHIBITION.

5. IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH VOGEL, MAYNES LAID BRITO ISSUE TO
REST WITH WARNING ON NEED FOR EARLIER CONSULTATIONS AND NEED
FOR U.S. CONFIDENCE IN WFP STAFF. VOGEL ASSURED MAYNES HE HAD
SPOKEN TO BRITO ON THIS LATTER POINT. BRITO APPOINTMENT IS
NOW AWAITING GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL APPROVAL AND BRITO EXPECTS
TO START NEW DUTIES ABOUT AUGUST 1. GARDNER

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